

REMARKS

Claims 1-22, 33, and 34 are pending.

Claims 1-22, 33, and 34 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 12, 15, and 16 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments to can be found, at least, within paragraphs [0022] and [0023] of the Specification.

Objections to the Specification

The Amendment filed April 8, 2010, has been objected to under 35 U.S.C. §132(a) as purportedly introducing new matter into the disclosure. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, but rather to advance prosecution, Applicants submit claims 1 and 12 have been amended to address the Examiner's concerns. The amendments find support, at the least, within paragraphs [0022] and [0023] of the Specification. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that this objection is overcome.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-22, 33 and 34 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as purportedly being unpatentable over claims 1-24 of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/696,156. Since this is a provisional rejection, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated in this or the copending application.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-22, 33, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, under the same reasoning as presented in connection with the objections to the Specification, above, with regard to claims 1 and 12. Applicants submit that dependent claims 2-11, 13-22, 33, and 34 also overcome this objection for at least the foregoing reasons. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that this objection is overcome.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103

Independent Claims 1 and 12

Claims 1-22, 33 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,708,828 (“Coleman”) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0178077 (“Katz”) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,446,880 (“Balgeman”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Coleman nor Balgeman, alone or in any combination, teach or suggest, at the very least, that in the course of synchronizing inventory balance information between a source and target system, information in an intermediate format includes generating an inventory balance delta, where the delta accounts for a difference between a source inventory balance and a target inventory balance. This limitation is in claim 1, and a similar limitation is in claim 12.

Coleman is cited as purportedly teaching the claimed limitations directed to “synchronizing”, “extracting”, and “converting.” *See* Office Action, p. 6. Notwithstanding other deficiencies of the Office Action’s position, Applicants respectfully submit that Coleman fails to teach or in any way suggest features in any way comparable to the newly recited limitations. As conceded by the Office Action, Coleman fails to disclose inventory balance information. *See* Office Action, p. 7. Lacking any ability to consider inventory balance information, it is not possible for Coleman to consider calculating an inventory balance delta between a source inventory balance and a target inventory balance.

Katz is cited as purportedly teaching inventory balance information. However, Katz is silent on synchronizing a source and target system, and further, doing so by generating an inventory balance delta between a source inventory balance and a target inventory balance. While the Office Action cites various sections of Katz ([¶ [0039], [0040], and [0220]), none of these sections are cited as teaching, and indeed, even remotely applies to the claimed “generating an inventory balance delta.”

Balgeman is cited as purportedly teaching calculating a difference between a source balance and a target balance. *See* Office Action, citing Balgeman 8:54-60, and claims 3, 6, 7, and 9. The first cited section of Balgeman is the following passage:

Subsequent updates of the record by any node are automatically distributed to the other nodes by utilizing a standardized record format. Thus, the present invention provides an enhanced communication system allowing independent database flexibility while still providing the relevant nodes in the network with up-to-date records.

Balgeman 8:54-60.

Notwithstanding other infirmities, Applicants respectfully submit that this passage in Balgeman is completely silent on the generation of any kind of inventory balance delta, and particularly one which represents a difference between a source inventory balance and a target inventory balance. Further, Balgeman offers no teachings of a delta of any sort, nor of any comparison of anything comparable to the claimed values. At best, this section of Balgeman discloses only a simple record update distribution. Introducing the concept of inventory balance information to Balgeman would do nothing to address Balgeman's silence on performing any type of delta generation.

The Office Action next cites claim 3 of Balgeman, which recites the following limitations:

The system according to claim 1 further comprising means associated with said second node for automatically transmitting a copy of an updated first record based on the original record from said second database to the first database containing the corresponding original record, said first database storing said updated first record.

Applicants respectfully submit that this passage in Balgeman is completely silent on the generation of any kind of inventory balance delta accounting for a difference between a source inventory balance and a target inventory balance. At best, similar to the earlier cited passage in Balgeman, this passage merely discloses transmitting a simple record update. Cited claims 6, 7, and 9 are equally silent on this claimed limitation.

Dependent Claims 4 and 15

Dependent claims 4 and 15 recite limitations similar to the limitations now canceled in independent claims 1 and 12. Particularly, claims 4 and 15 recite updating existing inventory balance information on the target system, wherein the updating is based, in part, on the inventory balance delta. Applicants respectfully submit that neither Coleman nor Katz nor Balgeman, alone or in any combination, teach, or in any way show features that might somehow be successfully demonstrated as these limitations.

The Office Action cites the same sections of Balgeman as were cited against the claimed “generating an inventory balance delta” limitation in claims 1 and 12. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Balgeman fails to disclose anything comparable to an inventory balance delta accounting for a difference between a source inventory balance and a target inventory balance. Without disclosing anything comparable to the claimed inventory balance delta, it follows that Balgeman also fails to disclose anything comparable to the claimed updating based, at least in part, on an inventory balance delta.

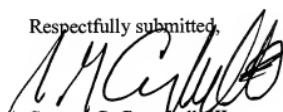
For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that neither Coleman nor Katz nor Balgeman, alone or in combination, provide disclosure of all the limitations of independent claims 1 and 12, and all claims depending therefrom, and that these claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner’s reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to these claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, this Application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

If any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are required in order for this submission to be considered timely, Applicants hereby petition for such extensions. Applicants also hereby authorize that any fees due for such extensions or any other fee associated with this submission, as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17, be charged to deposit account 502306.

Respectfully submitted,



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